

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
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S E C R E T PARIS 01995

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PBOR, SO, KE, ET
SUBJ: KENYA-SOMALI NON-AGGRESSION PACT AND OTHER HORN
TOPICS

REF: STATE 11014

1. IN A JANUARY 20 MEETING WITH PRESIDENT GISCARD
D'ESTAING'S PRINCIPLE AFRICAN ADVISOR, RENE JOURNIAC,
WE ENQUIRED WHETHER GISCARD HAD RAISED THE SUBJECT OF
A SOMALI-KENYA NON-AGGRESSION PACT DURING HIS RECENT
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VISIT TO THE IVORY COAST. JOURNIAC CONFIRMED THAT THE
SUBJECT HAD BEEN RAISED AS AN IMPORTANT QUESTION.
JOURNIAC SAID THAT SIAD BARRE HAD PROPOSED TO HOUPHOUET-
BOIGNY THE IDEA OF A NON-AGGRESSION PACT BEFORE
GISCARD'S VISIT. THE IDEA OF A PACT WAS NOT TERRIBLY
INTERESTING TO THE KENYANS WHO PREFERRED A SIMPLE
PUBLIC DECLARATION BY SIAD BARRE THAT SOMALIA HAD NO

DESIGNS ON KENYAN TERRITORY--A STATEMENT THAT THE SOMALIS HAD BEEN RELUCTANT TO MAKE UP TO NOW DESPITE THEIR NUMEROUS PRIVATE STATEMENTS AROUND THE WORLD THAT THIS WAS IN FACT THE CASE. HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY AGREED WITH GISCARD THAT HE SHOULD GO BACK TO THE SOMALIS AND HAVE ANOTHER TRY. JOURNIAC SAID THAT THE RECENT TOUR BY SOMALI LEADERS THROUGHOUT AFRICA TO DRUM UP SUPPORT HAD ON THE WHOLE MET WITH A FAIRLY SYMPATHETIC RESPONSE, DESPITE THE QUESTION OF THE INVIOABILITY OF INHERITED COLONIAL FRONTIERS. THIS WAS LARGELY BECAUSE OF WIDESPREAD DISTASTE FOR THE MENGISTU REGIME AND THE MASSIVE SOVIET PRESENCE IN ETHIOPIA. THE RESPONSE WOULD HAVE BEEN MORE FAVORABLE WERE IT NOT FOR SOMALIA'S AMBIGUOUS ATTITUDE TOWARDS MODERATE KENYA. ACCORDING TO JOURNIAC, HOUPHOUET WILL USE THIS ARGUMENT WITH SIAD BARRE, MAKING THE ADDITIONAL POINT THAT ONCE THE KENYAN QUESTION HAS BEEN DISPOSED OF THERE WILL BE A SITUATION ON THE HORN WHICH WILL STAND OUT CLEARLY AS A CASE OF SOVIET MEDDLING ON THE CONTINENT. JOURNIAC SAID THAT FRANCE WILL ALSO CONTINUE TO PRESSURE SOMALIA TO MAKE A PUBLIC STATEMENT.

2. SOVIET-SOMALI RELATIONS. JOURNIAC SAID HE WAS AWARE OF RUMORS THAT SIAD BARRE WAS CONSIDERING ATTEMPTING A RECONCILIATION WITH THE SOVIETS. HE THOUGHT THIS VERY UNLIKELY. SIAD BARRE IS NO FOOL
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AND MUST KNOW THAT THE HASTY, EVEN BRUTAL, MANNER IN WHICH HE KICKED OUT THE SOVIET ADVISORS WILL HAVE CAUSED GREAT ANIMOSITY. JOURNIAC DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD PATCH UP RELATIONS WITH SOMALIA IF SIAD BARRE IS STILL IN POWER, AND SIAD BARRE HAS NO INTENTION OF STEPPING ASIDE.

3. SIAD BARRE'S DOMESTIC POSITION. JOURNIAC SAID HE HAD HEARD RUMORS OF PLOTTING AGAINST SIAD BARRE, BUT FELT THAT EVEN IF TRUE, THERE WAS NO IMMEDIATE THREAT TO HIS POSITION. SIAD BARRE HAS A VERY EFFICIENT POLICE APPARATUS UNDER HIS DIRECT CONTROL WHICH HE USES TO GOOD EFFECT. ONE OF THE REASONS FOR THE HASTY DEPARTURE OF THE SOVIETS WAS PROBABLY HIS DESIRE NOT TO GIVE THE SOVIETS TIME TO TURN THIS APPARATUS AGAINST HIM.
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